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Brooklyn, NY 11215

22 July 1999

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Dockets Management Branch  
The Food and Drug Administration  
Department of Health and Human Services, Rm. 1-23  
12420 Parklawn Dr.  
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: 99P-1340/CP 1  
Petition to Have "Eternity eau de parfum" Misbranded

To Whom It Concerns:

In May, 1999, the Environmental Health Network (EHN) submitted the above petition to have Calvin Klein's Eternity eau de parfum declared misbranded. I am writing because I fully support this petition and request that the FDA give it careful attention with regard to your regulations 21CFR Sec. 740.1, 21CFR Sec. 740.2, and 21CFR Sec. 740.10. Regulation 21CFR Sec. 740.10 specifically states:


Each ingredient used in a cosmetic product and each finished cosmetic product shall be adequately substantiated for safety prior to marketing. Any such ingredient or product whose safety is not adequately substantiated prior to marketing is misbranded unless it contains the following conspicuous statement on the principal display panel: "Warning: The safety of this product has not been determined."

As I understand it, "Eternity" contains known toxic chemicals, as well as chemicals that have not been tested for consumer safety. This is of great concern to me. I know that the chemicals in many common fragrance products can be dangerous. I recently learned about these dangers when a friend of mine developed chemical sensitivities. She suffers symptoms including migraine headaches and asthma when she is around people wearing perfume. She has had to stop attending religious services and other community events in order to avoid these painful and unnecessary symptoms.

Many people enjoy perfume but have no idea what they are exposing themselves (and the adults and children around them) to. We all have the right to make informed decisions about the products we buy and come into contact with. This is the point of labeling laws. Perfume manufacturers should not be able to skirt the law under the guise of "trade secrets." The tobacco companies got away with this for decades; they were untouchable until there was enough public sentiment against them for manufacturing a toxic product. A similar consciousness is now forming about perfume.

I hope you will treat this petition with the seriousness that it deserves. My friend's symptoms may have been extreme but I know that she is not alone. I meet more and more people all the time who do not consider themselves to have "chemical sensitivities," or even an allergy to perfume, but when I mention my friend they understand immediately. Perfume "gives them headaches" or "affects their breathing." For all of us, those of us with disabilities and those (like me) who really just want to be able to go the movies or other public events with all of their friends, please act on this petition.

Sincerely,

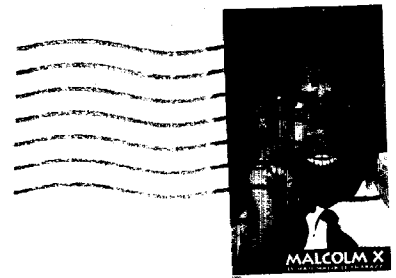
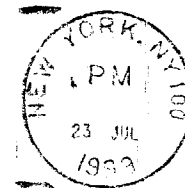


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